



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

February 17, 1993

Effective Date: March 12, 1993

### COMMISSIONER'S POLICY STATEMENT NO. 45

#### PATIENTS' RIGHTS MANUAL

The purpose of this policy is to establish Department of Mental Health standard practices pertaining to Patients' Rights. The Department's standard practices are set forth in the Connecticut Department of Mental Health Patients' Rights Manual and the contents of that manual are incorporated into this policy as official Department of Mental Health policy and practice. The Chief of Affirmative Action and Patients' Rights has the responsibility and full authority to administer, direct and enforce a Patients' Rights program for the Department of Mental Health. He or she answers directly to the Commissioner.

The Connecticut Department of Mental Health Patients' Rights Manual applies to all Department of Mental Health facilities and, to the extent that it is applicable, to Department of Mental Health outpatient facilities. The manual shall be readily available and accessible to all staff as well as to any patient who desires its use. Superintendents and Directors of each facility shall be responsible for ensuring distribution of this manual to all hospital administrators, department heads, patient wards, nursing supervisors' offices, and libraries, and ensuring staff familiarity with its contents.

Every patient is to be free from discriminatory treatment and must not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, handicap, religion, age, or financial circumstances.

All staff of the Department of Mental Health must, at all times, respect and adhere to the rights of patients in Connecticut Department of Mental Health facilities.

Albert J. Solnit, M.D.  
Commissioner

This directive replaces Commissioner's Policy Statement No. 45, dated November 21, 1984.

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